

## AMHERST COUNCIL ON AGING MINUTES

June 9, 2011

Bangs Community Center: Room 101

**Members Present:** Daniel Clapp, Joan Golowich, Rosemary Kofler, Kathy Koplow (out-going COA member), Mary Jane Laus, Barbara Sutherland, Juana Trujillo, Jack Wollensak

**Absent:** Joel Gordon

**Select Board Liaison:** absent

**Staff Present:** Nancy Pagano (Director/Program Director), Maura Plante (Assistant Director/Services), Karen Erman (Administrative Assistant)

**Guests:** Barbara Slovin (President of the Friends), Lisa White (Senior Health Services), Arnold Friedman (Friends Board), Richard Kofler (Friends Board), Alan Root, Sue Dierks (incoming FY12 to-be-appointed COA member),

**Welcome:** Dan Clapp, Chair, called the Council on Aging meeting to order at 11:08 AM.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the May 5, 2011 meeting were approved and accepted.

### FRIENDS

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

A handout showed \$7,233.82 in the checking account and \$84,072.52 in the investment account, plus a \$15,000 CD that will mature December 4, 2011 with interest of 0.75%. The Treasurer's report was approved and accepted.

#### **Donations for FY11 to date:**

**Karen** stated that since July, 2010 the Friends has received \$15,644.85 of which \$12,889.96 came in just since the solicitation letter went out in the November newsletter.

#### **Friends Report:**

**Barbara Slovin** estimated that 25 people attended the Friends' Annual Meeting on June 6. The By-laws were amended to designate a nine-member board instead of a seven-member board. The two new members are Arnold Friedman and Richard Kofler. There were good discussions at the Annual Meeting with thoughtful suggestions for ways to improve the Follies – to have only professional talent, to shorten the program, to incorporate Amherst High School talent and to use a smaller venue.

**Alan Root** was granted a request to speak about the need for greater diversity at the Senior Center. He emphasized the need to attract the people who aren't coming, especially in the Latino population, (which he reports are a large group of people who are not currently participating in activities).

### NEW BUSINESS

#### **Election of Officers:**

**Jack** reported. The nominating committee advised that Joel and Rosemary be appointed to two-year terms and Juana and Joan be appointed to three-year terms. The committee recommended that Sue Dierks join the COA in Kathy Koplow's place. Dan Clapp would continue as President. Joan Golowich would continue as Vice President. Rosemary Kofler would continue as Secretary. The slate was unanimously approved. The recommendations await appointment by the Town Manager.

### CONTINUING BUSINESS

#### **Parking Proposal Update:**

**Jack** provided a handout. The proposal has been supported by the Chair of the Select Board, the Town Manager and the Parking Task Force. The latter wanted the senior parking sticker to be tied more closely with the use of the Senior Center and recommended it be renewed ONLY if the senior has participated in 50 hours of activities or volunteer work during the year. The proposal will be sent to the Select Board for approval on June 13. The cost of the sticker will be \$25.00 per year. It will allow the senior to park for up to four hours Monday through Friday in designated lots. A parking sticker that can be put in the back windshield will be designed in "Publisher".

**Nancy** said she feels the cost of parking at present is an impediment to those who wish to come to the Senior Center. She is hopeful that a senior sticker will bring more participants.

#### **Formula Grant:**

**Nancy** reported that the number of people over 60 in Amherst has grown by 34% since the year 2000. The House and Senate voted to appropriate \$6.25 per elder per year, and is awaiting the Governor's signature. It is expected,

therefore that the amount in our Formula Grant will increase. That money, above the approximate \$21,000 earmarked for Karen's salary, will be used to increase Evie's part-time hours to do greater outreach in the Latino community and to provide job assistance with Maura's work.

## **SUB-COMMITTEE**

**Highland Valley Elder Services** - no report.

### **Long Range Planning:**

**Jack** reported that the viewing of other Senior Centers for ideas on refurbishing or designing a new center in Amherst would continue. Northampton, Groton and Glastonbury have been visited thus far. After Lenox, Shrewsbury and West Hartford have been visited we will combine information, then give a presentation and make recommendations at the next COA meeting. An exercise center is a high priority.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

**Nancy** said the work on the outdoor plaza would start June 13. The main entrance she's been told would have to be closed for about two weeks. PVTA will be notified and signs will be posted.

**Lisa White** provided a handout designating the number of client visits to Senior Health Services. In May, 46 individuals were seen. For FY10, 1135 client contacts were made.

Lisa reminded us of her hours: Monday 10:00 – 2:30 and Thursday 1:00 – 3:30. She has a very active clinic at the Clark House on Thursday from 9:30 – 11:00. The Senior Health Services slogan is "to help seniors help themselves stay healthy".

**Dan** encouraged COA members to volunteer their services and share in the sub-committee work that is necessary between the regular COA monthly meetings.

The COA meeting adjourned at 12:03 PM.

**The next meeting of the COA will be held on August 4, 2011 at 9:00 AM at the Bangs Community Center.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosemary Kofler, Secretary

The approved minutes of the May 5, 2011 meeting were delivered to the Select Board office to be filed.

**Council on Aging  
May 5, 2011  
Bangs Community Center: Room 101**

**Document List**

The following documents were made available to all members of the COA during the meeting. They are available for review at the Amherst Senior Center, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst MA.

1. Meeting Agenda.
2. Minutes of May 5, 2011 meeting.
3. Friends of the Amherst Senior Center Treasurer's Report.
4. "Growth of Aging Population in Massachusetts" data fact sheet.
5. Town of Amherst Senior Citizen Sticker Parking Program
6. Amherst Senior Health Services Clinic Visits for May 2011 and FY10